

My family and I offer Jackie's family and her many friends our thoughts and prayers, as we all celebrate this extraordinary woman's life.

HONORING W.W. "BILL" ASTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to recognize the passing of W.W. "Bill" Aston, a model citizen—veteran, community advocate, civic leader, volunteer, and devoted health care expert from Dallas, Texas, who passed away on July 8, 2010, at age 82.

Mr. Aston lived in multiple locations in Texas from the Rio Grande to the Red River, throughout central Texas and in Arkansas and Oklahoma before coming to Dallas. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific in 1945–46. After he was discharged from the Navy in 1946, Bill went to work for Dallas Power & Light Company, where he worked for 40 years before retiring in 1986. He worked in overhead construction, human resources, advertising, sales, customer relations, and public relations at DP&L before becoming president, a position he held until retirement.

Mr. Aston was active in many volunteer activities, locally and nationally, with a focus on health care. He served as board chairman of the American Heart Association's Dallas Chapter and Texas Affiliate before becoming board chair of the national organization. During his many years of service to the American Heart Association, he was proud of the progress made in reducing mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases through educating the public about the risk factors—smoking, elevated blood pressure, lack of exercise, cholesterol, salt, stress, and obesity.

He has served the Baylor Health Care System for over 20 years at various times as board chair of Baylor University Medical Center, board chair of Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital, and a board member of the Baylor Health Care System. At Baylor, he authored a resolution calling for continuous improvement of the delivery system for high quality, safe patient care which was adopted by all Baylor Health Care System facilities.

Since the 1940s, he has also served other organizations such as: Chairman of City of Dallas Civil Service Commission, DART board member, officer or board member of Dallas Zoological Society, Dallas Ballet, Dallas Summer Musicals, The Science Place, Camp Fire Girls, Dallas Advertising League, Dallas County Community College System, Public Relations Society of America, Dallas Assembly, State Fair of Texas, United Way and Texas Health Care Trustees.

Bill graduated with honors from SMU's Cox School of Business with a BBA degree and was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. He served as president of SMU's Alumni Association and as a member of the Executive Board of SMU's Lyle School of Engineering. He was a long-time active member of Rotary, and served as president of the Dallas Rotary Club and district governor of Rotary International. Bill also served for 18 years as a volunteer driver on the McKinney Avenue Trolley.

He received many awards and recognitions: The American Heart Association's Dwight D.

Eisenhower Award as Volunteer of the Year for Texas, Brotherhood Citation Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU, Founders Award from the Texas Health Care Trustees, Trustee of the Year Award from the Dallas County Medical Society and Distinguished Health Service Award from the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council.

Most recently, the Board of Trustees of Baylor Health Care System established the "Bill Aston Annual Award for Quality" which will be awarded by the Texas Hospital Association for the first time in 2011.

Madam Speaker, there simply isn't space in this tribute to fully capture Mr. Aston's contributions to our community. He was uniquely American—a dreamer, a doer, a giver, a lover of life. In short, he was a community treasure.

I join so many North Texans in mourning W.W. Aston's passing, and in extending condolences to his wife of 62 years, Evelyn, and family and friends. You are all in our prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 18th Annual National Multicultural Diversity Day celebration that was held in my hometown of Flint Michigan. A multicultural dinner and program were held on October 11th to kick off events celebrating diversity in our country.

Cleora Scruggs presented the idea of creating a National Multicultural Diversity Day to the National Education Association 1993 Representative Assembly. Cleora developed this proposal to teach students about the contributions of persons from a wide variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Her proposal was adopted and educators across our nation use the third Monday of October to kickoff diversity programs. Now retired, Cleora was honored by the National Education Association in 2000 with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award for her ongoing efforts to advance the teaching of multiculturalism in our schools. She continues to make presentations and visit schools, spreading the idea that diversity is strength, not weakness.

Madam Speaker, the celebration held last month was themed, "Valuing Multicultural Diversity," and was highlighted by ethnic displays, performances, foods and speakers. I commend Cleora Scruggs and the National Multicultural Diversity Institute for their work promoting understanding, appreciation and acceptance of persons of different ethnic backgrounds. Through their efforts students, parents and educators will have increased insight into our world and a deeper understanding its people.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Philanthropy Day, a day dedicated to the millions of Americans who donate their time, money and talents to improving the lives of others. They ask for no reward for their efforts, but each year on November 15 we thank them and honor them for their work.

The Greater Cleveland chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals has selected three individuals and two organizations to recognize for their contributions. This year, awards go to youth leader Shannon Visconti, philanthropist Deborah Ratner, fundraising volunteer William D. Ginn, the Community West Foundation and the Third Federal Savings and Loan. Each has made an outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of our community.

Having chosen to dedicate their time and/or money to help meet a greater need, they lead by example, inspiring those within their reach to do the same. Such generosity, dedication and humility nurtures the individual and the collective.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of these admirable community leaders, as well as countless others like them who work unrecognized in cities and towns throughout the country.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL I. JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael I. Jordan, who this year was inducted as a Fellow into both the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences, a dual honor that has not been achieved in the past 150 years. In the sheer rarity of earning two invitations into separate Academies in the same year, Dr. Jordan distinguishes himself in the international science community, as well as in our Bay Area constituency, for his immense contributions to academia and the greater good.

After receiving a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in Psychology from Louisiana State University in 1978, Dr. Jordan went on to complete a master's degree in Mathematics (Statistics) at Arizona State University and a PhD in Cognitive Science from the University of California, San Diego. Prior to being recruited to the University of California, Berkeley in 1998, Dr. Jordan served for 10 years as a faculty member of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Jordan currently serves as the Pehong Chen Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Jordan's scholarly work focuses on statistical machine learning, Bayesian nonparametric statistics, graphical models, as well as human